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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01
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NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02
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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6653
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
S E C R E T OUAGADOUGOU 6252
LONDON FOR LANPHER: PARIS FOR MURPHY
E.O. 12065: RDS-4, 11/26/00 (GRAHL, LARRY C) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, UV
SUBJECT: VOLTAN MILITARY TAKEOVER
REF: A) OUAGA 6204, B) OUAGA 6220, C) OUAGA 6226
1. (U) THIRTY-SIX HOURS AFTER MILITARY TAKEOVER, LIFE IS RAPIDLY RETURNING TO NORMAL IN OUAGADOUGOU. THE RADIO HAS RESUMED NORMAL PROGRAMMING, TELEPHONE AND TELEX SERVICES ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY, GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE

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OPEN AS ARE SHOPS AND BANKS. THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER WAS PUBLISHED AND FEATURED A PICTURE/BIOGRAPHY OF COL. ZERBO AND A BITTERSWEET EDITORIAL ABOUT THE FALL OF THE THIRD REPUBLIC. SCHOOLS ARE OPEN. TRAINS TO AND FROM ABIDJAN ARE OPERATING AND INTERNATIONAL BORDERS OPEN. HOWEVER, TROOPS ARE STILL PLACED AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS AND CONTINUE TO BLOCK ACCESS TO THE AIRPORT. A 1900 TO 0600 CURFEW WAS RIGIDLY INFORCED LAST NIGHT AND IT MAY WELL CONTINUE IN FORCE FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS.
2. (U) FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN VERY LITTLE CHANGE FROM THE EARLY HOURS OF NOVEMBER 25. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE OF REFORM FOR NATIONAL PROGRESS (MCRNP) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, BUT ONLY TWO NAMES HAVE BEEN GIVEN OUT AS BEING RELATED TO THE COMMITTEE--COL. SAYE ZERBO, HEAD OF THE COMMITTEE, AND LTC PIERRE CLAVER BADAMBIE NEZIEN

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(COMMANDANT OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE). IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT ALL BRANCES OF THE SECURITY ESTABLISHMENT-- ARMY, SURETE, GENDARMERIE, AIR FORCE-- ARE INVOLVED IN THE TAKEOVER.
3. (C) LOCAL POPULATION, MID-LEVEL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONAIRES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS ARE ALL UNINFORMED OF JUST WHAT IS TAKING PLACE.

6. (C) THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER WORD ON THE STATUS OF (EX) PRESIDENT LAMIZANA. HIS RESIDENCE IS STILL SURROUNDED. WE HAVE NO WORD ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER CONOMBO AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO. AT LEAST TWO FORMER MINISTERS, COMMANDANT MAHAMADOU OUEDRAOGO (PUBLIC WORKS) AND PAUL ISMAEL OUEDRAOGO (PTT), WERE MOVED FROM THEIR HOMES LATE MONDAY AND ARE BEING HELD AT MILITARY CAMP IN OUAGA

7. (C)

THE MCRNP HAS SET AS ITS GOAL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT (REF B). WHEN THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP IS MADE PUBLIC AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION WILL ARISE. IN THE MEANTIME, WHILE MISSION OFFICES ARE OPEN, ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSULAR TYPE ACTIVITIES ARE BEING PERFORMED.GRAHL
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